

YEAR BOOK
OF THE
HEATHER
SOCIETY

1973



THE CHEAT

AS APPEARED IN THE ROYAL HALLS

Presented by ST JOHN BARNARDSON, M. A.

Author of "THE CHEAT" AND "THE CHEAT"

AND "THE CHEAT"

THE CHEAT

With Compliments

G. I. H. H.

THE HEATH

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A Valediction: Fred J. Chapple

J. P. Ardron, Sheffield



Sadly, we shall miss the warm friendship of this gentle man, Fred J. Chapple, who died on December 5th, 1972.

The inspiration of so many heather enthusiasts, his writing of *The Heather Garden* largely prepared the ground for the foundation of The Heather Society in 1963. Enthusiasm for heather gardening continued to flow from his facile pen in countless articles and photographic illustrations in gardening journals: he was our prime ambassador.

Many of us will remember gratefully the charm of this quiet man who nevertheless retained a measure of persistence which brought many a suggestion to fruition. He it was who advocated the 'week-end' conferences at which he was such a delightful companion.

His many qualities can be discerned by reading between the lines of his 'swan song'—which we here reprint from Bulletin 13:

'Summer 1971. OUR FIRST PRESIDENT SAYS "GOOD-BYE".

In retiring as the first President of the Heather Society I think of all those members I have called on in Cheshire,

Derbyshire, Lancashire, Notts., Dorset, Hampshire, Surrey, Bucks., Worcs., North Wales, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man. Also, I was glad to welcome members on holiday in the Isle of Man and to show them our heather gardens. Unfortunately my plans to go to Scotland did not materialise. There were those too I met at seven successive annual meetings and the cheerful contingency from far-flung abodes which gathered together at Harlow Car, Ness and Nottingham. Wherever I went I enjoyed chatting with members and seeing their gardens. It was very nice meeting our overseas friends, Doctor and Mrs Metheny from Seattle, and to recall in writing these lines their generous gift of slides.

Of the nursery members I visited there were Mr Leslie Slinger (Slieve Donard, N. Ireland), who introduced me to *Calluna* 'Tomentosa' twenty years ago; Mr George Hamer (Chisworth, Cheshire), a remarkable agile man who bubbles over with activity and will talk until every cutting roots; Mr and Mrs J. F. Letts and their attractive Windlesham garden; Mr F. J. Stevens, running the old firm of Maxwell & Beale, Dorset; Mr A. Annabel, Ravenshead, Notts., who gave up a commercial career for professional horticulture; Mr J. L. Russell, V.M.H., and a Vice-President of the Royal Horticultural Society with his shrub garden centre in Windlesham; and the "Sparkes-es" at Gorcott Hill, who love the simple life in the woodlands which they would not exchange for all the money in Threadneedle Street.

Quite apart from growing heathers—our main purpose—what I really treasure is the most friendly lot of people I have ever met.

Looking back to 1951 and 1952, on the face of it a Heather Society seemed a feasible proposition. But to get it started, supported and financed was something quite different. A small band in London on February 20th, 1963, founded the Society. It was a momentous meeting and I was glad to have been there.

We owe a lot to the pioneers, the hard work of a cheerful Secretary, Mrs C. I. MacLeod; an inspiring lead given by Sir John Charrington, and later the valuable botanical research by David McClintock; the editing of an informative

Year Book by the great veteran "Pat" Patrick, a "Man of Letters"—(not forgetting Mrs Harper's editorship); John Ardron's "spadework" in rallying the northern brigade; Mr Prew's service in housing and distributing the slides—a painstaking task.

Sometimes a farewell brings sadness: this one brings joy.

FRED J. CHAPPLE.'



Just before he died Fred Chapple wrote one final article for us which is published below. It must have given him a lot of satisfaction as it is no coincidence that since the publication of his book *The Heather Garden* in 1952 you now find 'heather everywhere'.

Heather Everywhere

I find in travelling through different parts of the country that heather is more abundant than ever, even in places where you would least expect to see it. It is cultivated more widely as a plant now recognised for its usefulness and adornment in flower and foliage; to brighten odd corners, such as open ground in a market town, a patch near the railway station, a display in the forefront of a modern library, as edgings to plots on housing estates, and we see it in schools and hospital grounds.

Petrol stations have a few clumps, a table on a street pavement is used as a stall in selling heather for a charity, and instead of a small flag pinned on the coat, sprigs of moorland heather are set on a tray and sold in aid of a good cause.

I came across heathers (*Calluna*) with a rose tree in the centre of a tub on each side of the porch of Bunbury Parish Church (St Boniface), Cheshire, and a day or two previously I noticed very good carneas in the heart of Salford.

Ten years ago heather in parks was on a limited scale. Today they are in almost every park in the country; quite

a number have a heather garden as a feature of the park, with plenty of colour in winter time. It was rare to see heather in private gardens during the 1950's, now more are grown in suburbs and country districts.

Heathers feature in seaside gardens, in the parks, on the promenade, and in open spaces around the town. This upsurge of the last few years has made countless numbers of people aware of the value in these plants.

In the Rural Science course at Castle Rushen School, Isle of Man, boys and girls are taught, successfully, how to prepare heather cuttings in the compost they have prepared and how to layer (trench layering, as described in my book). When rooted they can take them home, if they wish to do so. Old scholars who have grown up, enjoy in their gardens heathers which are now well-developed plants and which they propagated at school.

FRED J. CHAPPLE

The Secretary's Report

The year 1972, successful in many ways for the Heather Society, has yet been overshadowed by three sudden deaths, those of Dr Metheny, husband of our Seattle Vice-President, Mrs Dorothy Metheny; Brigadier Montgomery, whose beautiful garden, 'Kinlochruel', had been visited by our West of Scotland branch shortly before; and lastly, our Past-President, Fred J. Chapple. His picture, just ten years ago, formed the frontispiece of our first Year Book: we repeat it now as a tribute to one so familiar and so well-loved.

The compiling of this Year Book fell to our new sub-editor, Mr Arnold Stow, owing to the indisposition of Mr Patrick, who served us faithfully and well for a further five years after he had resigned in favour of Mrs Harper. Mr Turner speaks of our finances: I can only repeat my deep sense of gratitude that he shouldered my burden so willingly.

New and energetic additions to our Committee will, we

are certain, bring new ideas to bear on the conduct of our affairs. Lecturers are constantly being asked for: we have no such panel. We see future 'garden visits' more in the light of smaller, more personal gatherings with definite activities provided. To begin with, Mrs Ronald Gray is inviting to her Hindhead home (and greenhouses!) genuine Cape Heath growers *only* on Saturday, April 7th. Let me know who you are, in order to send out invitations.

We again urge members and their friends to support the August 17th-20th Conference at Dartington Hall, Totnes, Devon, a unique chance, thanks to our Committee member Mrs Boxall, to visit this famous centre of the arts.

As regards our 'sister-Society', Ericultura, the Dutch Heather Society, Mr Nicholson, one of the only *two* British members, keeps us informed. In the two years of its existence, the membership has reached 305. In their latest Communication No. 7, we are told of an interesting 'Selection Questionnaire' as a result of which 125 cultivars had been assessed. Some had been recommended, others eliminated, not always consistent with our experience in Britain, but doubtless true in Holland. If the newer Dutch cultivars are as good as they would appear, and we refer to the callunas Katinka, Christina, Ineke and Roland Hagen, they ought to be more widely grown over here.

Finally, we thank the following nurserymen who, in response to an appeal from Mr London, sent us their catalogues:

Abberley Hill Nursery, Worcs. (D. & M. Everett).

Clive Benson, Preston, Lancs.

Mrs J. L. Benson, Craven Arms, Salop.

Craigmarloch Nursery, Kilsyth by Glasgow
(A. McFarlane).

M. G. Frye, Thundersley, Essex.

Knap Hill Nursery, Woking.

Le Grice (Roses) Ltd, North Walsham, Norfolk.

Oliver & Hunter, Moniaive, Dumfries.

Geo. Osmond, Archfield, Nursery, Wickwar, Glos.

J. L. Russell, Richmond Nurseries, Windlesham.

Sheriffston Gardens, Elgin (Mrs M. Black).

Gervase Smith, Matlock, Derby.

Sunningdale Nurseries (Waterer's Group).

Sylvan Nurseries, So. Westport, Mass., U.S.A.
Tabrambill Gardens, Nottingham.

We would welcome others.

C. I. MACLEOD

From the Treasurer

My thanks to the members who responded to the appeal for payment of subscriptions by Banker's Order and under Covenant.

The number has now reached a total of 22% by Banker's Order but the remainder still pay by cheque, postal order or International Money Order. So far 46 Covenants have been received, from which the Society will benefit by refund of tax amounting to about £25 in the year. This will not go very far to meet our mounting costs. May I therefore draw attention to the forms enclosed with the Year Book and so save yourselves and the Society expense and trouble.

Receipts are only sent out with the next publication, *unless a stamped addressed envelope* is sent with your payment.

E. R. TURNER



Westham House 1972

A. J. Stow, Flackwell Heath, Buckinghamshire

By the time this report is printed in the 1973 Year Book, eleven months will have elapsed since the first ever A.G.M. and weekend conference was held at Westham House, Warwickshire, during a cold and windy April weekend in 1972. If it was cold outside, it certainly wasn't inside as some 40 members met at dinner on that Friday evening intent on exchanging views and ideas, meeting old friends and making new ones.

Looking round the room over dinner, I recognised Mrs MacLeod. No meeting would be complete without her, and I was so pleased to hear later that evening that at long last a cultivar had been named after her, namely, Constance, and

I heard it said that she was blushing beautifully at Harlow Car! Fred Chapple was there, not so keen on travelling these days but still prepared to cross from the Isle of Man to be with us. John Ardron also, and Peter Vickers, who had made such an impact with his talk on propagation at Grantley Hall the previous August.

After dinner John Ardron opened the proceedings with an account of the Harlow Car Heather project—a most ambitious undertaking, this, proceeding well despite being hit by storm, flood, and dearth of labour. Any talk by this enthusiastic Yorkshireman is enjoyable, but when illustrated with excellent slides it was by any standards a grand start to the conference.

On Saturday morning Fred Chapple spoke on how he came to write his book, *The Heather Garden*, and very interesting this was. Unfortunately it is now out of print, with no likelihood of ever being reprinted, so a word of advice for those lucky members who have a copy: look after it carefully, for in years to come it will be priceless if it isn't already. Several interesting points arose following this talk; for instance, it was thought that any further books on heather would have to be illustrated in colour, also the need of enthusiasts was for a paper-back edition small enough to slip into a pocket when on excursions, etc.

After coffee the weekend continued with details of various members' propagation techniques, the most interesting being Mr A. S. Turner's seed method, but as the Editor has received an article from Mr Turner himself for the Year Book, I'll let him tell you more about it himself.

On Saturday evening, following the A.G.M. in the afternoon, Mr Prew, the Society's slide librarian, entertained us with some superb slides (what an expert photographer he is); his close-ups of parts of a heather flower were most interesting and illuminating. Mrs Bowerman then showed some more slides illustrating the article 'Early Days at Champs Hill' which appeared in the 1972 Year Book. Here my restricted vocabulary fails me, for no words of mine can aptly describe the sheer magnificence of the grounds surrounding their home.

On Sunday morning Mr Bowerman chaired a Brains Trust of David McClintock, Jack London, Mrs Haigh and

Mr Street; there is never any lack of questions on these occasions and the panel were kept very busy until the coffee bell.

After coffee there followed a quiz, a light-hearted affair this; it was not designed to be, but there was an 'end-of-term' atmosphere prevailing. It had been a grand weekend, enjoyed by all concerned, but in the midst of the frivolity, let us not forget the quiz winner, Mr Platt, from Lancashire, who attained 30 marks out of a possible 35, a very commendable effort indeed.

After lunch we said our goodbyes and went our various ways, some members calling at Hidcote Manor Garden on their way home, others omitting this part of the weekend itinerary, but all, I'm sure, very happy with a most rewarding weekend.



Cinereas

Sir John Charrington, Crockham Hill, Kent

Eighteen months or so ago I dug up quite a number of heather plants, 10 or 12 years old, which had grown woody and too tall.

The space was forked over, well peated, and a year ago I replanted with mostly cinereas; partly because they flower earlier than other summer varieties, and partly because they are lower growing varieties.

It has occurred to me that some members might be interested to hear my experience now that they have flowered this summer.

“Alba minor.” A delightful, dwarf plant which has flowered well.

“Apple Blossom.” I am in some doubt about this variety, as most have white bloom and a few pink. Not too good.

“C. D. Eason.” An old friend of mine of which I am especially fond. However, the new ones, of which I have about 50 and which are not all in one part of the garden, have

tended to die off, when about to flower, in a distressing manner. I should be interested to know if this attractive variety does incline to be delicate until well established.

'Coccinea.' Excellent little plants with much bloom.

'Eden Valley.' Successful in every way; strong growing and attractive in colour.

'Domino.' The white bloom has been rather scarce, but I expect there will be more in future. Otherwise a satisfactory variety.

'Lilac Time.' A new one to me and quite satisfactory.

'Pink Ice.' A delightful plant, but rather less bloom this year than I had hoped for.

'Purple Beauty.' Excellent variety, with strong growth and good bloom, which has lasted well.

'Vivienne Patricia.' Pleasing bloom, but, like C. D. Eason, too many have died off when just in flower.

I realise that of the summer flowering heathers the callunas must have pride of place. Not only are they the finest and most showy plants seen then, but they are at their best when many gardens are beginning to look tired; but cinereas have a particular attraction for me by keeping the family of heathers in full show when summer gardens are at their best.

As one grows older, too, I appreciate sorts which require the minimum of clipping and are handy to deal with.

So long live the Bell Heather.



Heathers in the Hebrides

K. A. H. Cassels, Dunoon, Argyll, Scotland

I do not think my wife knew what she was starting when in 1963 she gave me a bargain collection of winter-flowering heaths. As far as I can remember there were three plants each of *E. x 'Silberschmelze'*, *E. x darleyensis* and *E. carnea 'King George'*.

I should explain that I am a frustrated gardener. I have always wanted to make gardens—not formal gardens, wild

gardens—and have been constantly thwarted because my work is such that I may have to move my home at short notice. Having made one garden in East Lothian and had to leave it, I was more cautious in Inverness, but still spent a good deal on my garden there, and had to leave it in its turn. So when I came to Argyll I was determined to spend *nothing* on the garden. I have, of course; one or two shrubs were needed, certain special favourites like *Meconopsis grandis* crept in, but on the whole I managed to restrain my ardour and the garden in Argyll remains largely as it was when we came, herbaceous borders, rose beds, shrubbery and kitchen garden. Nowhere for heathers; they just did not fit into the scheme.

So the bargain collection of winter-flowering heaths was rather an embarrassment. Where to plant them? As usual, my wife came up with the answer. 'Why don't you take them to Coll?' she said.

I should explain about Coll. Through a series of very happy coincidences we are the owners of a house on the enchanting island of Coll in the Hebrides. It is a grey stone house standing on a shelf half-way up a rocky hillside facing due south with a view down a sea loch to the Treshnish Islands and the far coast of Mull. It is a view to look at winter or summer, daylight or moonlight, calm or storm. We spend a lot of time doing just that.

I had always meant to make a garden in Coll, but not until I retired and could spend more time there. Meanwhile I was content with the wild flowers, patches of birds-foot trefoil and vetch, purple knapweed, blue sheep's bit scabious, white Burnet rose, the flame of yellow gorse in the spring and sheets of bell heather and ling climbing round the shoulders of the grey rocks.

But now those few words 'Why not take them to Coll?' opened the sort of mental picture, which all gardeners will recognise, of a garden-to-be of sheets of winter-flowering heaths extending the flowering season of the native heaths and heather, adding colour to the Spring which comes late as far north as this. I duly took the bargain collection to Coll and planted them at Easter 1963.

I made several mistakes. I set the plants too close together and I selected sites where the native heath was replaced by

grass. I wanted the heathers, not the grass, so it seemed natural to dig up the latter and plant my heaths in its place. I did not stop to wonder why grass replaced heather at those particular spots. I found out in 1968.

These 1963 plantings grew quickly. I discovered I had an almost ideal heather soil, a gritty peaty loam. I had a damp oceanic climate and presumably all the right bacteria from the local heather. I obtained Mr Letts' catalogue and started to plan extensions.

In 1964 I planted a *Daboecia cantabrica* 'Alba', 'Atropurpurea' and 'Praegerae'. I also planted *Phyllodoce caerulea* in a hollow on top of a rock where it spread slowly and flowered gaily until the dread year of 1968. This plant is a particular favourite of mine because of its extraordinary distribution. It has been known for over 150 years from one patch on one mountain in Perthshire. Then a year or two ago it was found on a mountain in Inverness-shire. It must be just waiting to be found in other places as well. Also in this year I planted a big patch of another special favourite, *E. carnea* 'Vivellii', to my mind the best of all the carneas.

I did not do much planting in 1965, just *Phyllodoce glanduliflora* and *Erica umbellata*.

Up to this point I had been utilising natural spaces for my new plantings, merely digging out a few turves where rough grass predominated to make a planting site. In 1966 I started to reclaim ground overgrown with bracken, grass, dwarf willow and creeping brambles. Until now I had only been flirting with the idea of a heather garden; 1965 marks the end of the beginning.

In 1966 I had quite an area of ground ready and I planted a lot of carneas: 'C. J. Backhouse', 'Eileen Porter', 'Gracilis', 'Loughrigg', 'Snow Queen' and the two Springwoods. The three *E. ciliaris* cultivars 'Maweana', 'Stoborough' and 'Wych' were established. I also started on *Tetralix* with 'Alba Mollis', 'Con Underwood', 'Ken Underwood' and 'L. E. Underwood', and the *vagans* with 'Lyonesse' and 'Mrs D. F. Maxwell'. Unfortunately the site I chose for the *Tetralix* varieties proved rather too dry and they are not really happy; I shall have to find a new home for them. Lastly, greatly daring, I planted *E. pageana* in a very sheltered corner. I nearly lost it from being too careful as I did not

plant till May and it had to establish itself in very dry conditions.

The following year I broke up more ground on a steep bank facing the sea and planted it with *E. vagans* 'Rubra', 'St Keverne' and 'Cream'. They loved it and this is still one of my most successful plantings; what a show they make in September! I really think *E. vagans* in its various cultivars is my favourite species. This year I also planted *E. arborea* 'Alpina' and *E. lusitanica*. *E. pageana* had had a struggle to establish itself but by the spring of 1967 it settled down to grow and made a very fine bush during that year.

I must now explain some of the climatic vagaries of the west coast of Scotland and the Isle of Coll in particular. The first thing to remember is that the spine of mountains down the centre of Scotland cuts the country in half longitudinally, and that this is much more important than the latitudinal division of north and south. The two sides of the country rarely have the same weather. The west coast is warm and damp and tender plants can be grown successfully as far north as the famous gardens of Inverewe in Wester Ross, thanks to the kindly influence of the Gulf Stream. The Isle of Coll is further west still and its mean winter temperatures are some 4° warmer than the west coast of the mainland, though slightly cooler in summer because of the breezes off the sea. Like the neighbouring island of Tralee, Coll is low, the highest point being only 169 feet above sea level. This reduces the rainfall and greatly increases the hours of sunshine.

Everyone who lives in the south and west will remember 1968 as the year when it never stopped raining. Wine-lovers will know that virtually no wine was made because the vintage was so bad. And in Coll? Day after day, week after week, month after month, the sun shone twelve and fourteen hours a day and no rain fell. At Easter I planted *E. cinerea* 'Apple Blossom', 'Cevennes' and *E. hibernica* 'Coccinea'. How they managed to live I do not know. Encouraged by the success of *E. pageana* I also planted *E. canaliculata* and one plant survived; it is still growing well. *E. pageana* was a picture that spring covered with buttercup yellow flowers.

One of the hazards of gardening in Coll is that the bedrock is never far away. In the deeper pockets there may be two

feet of soil but over large areas there may only be a few inches. It seems too fantastic to say it of any place in the British Isles, but the drought that started in the spring of 1968 did not really break in Coll for over a year. It is true that in the autumn and winter we had occasional days of light drizzle—what the English call ‘Scotch mist’—but no really heavy rain fell until the end of June 1969. Most of the soil in the garden dried out completely; even a foot below the surface it was powder-dry. I discovered now, alas, why grass had formerly grown where I had planted my first heaths; there was insufficient depth of soil for heaths in dry weather. In consequence I lost most of my ‘C. J. Backhouse’ and the ‘Gracilis’, all the ‘King George’, most of the ‘Loughrigg’, ‘Springwood Pink’ and all the ‘Springwood White’, ‘Vivellii’, x *darleyensis* and ‘Silberschmelze’, *E. Mackaiana*, *E. umbellata* and *Phyllodoce caerulea*, all of which I had planted the previous year. Great stretches of natural ling and bell heather died; all over the island it is still possible to see patches of dead heather dating back to that drought. The most bitter loss of all was *Erica pageana*, just when it was established and growing so well. Worse still, I have not been able to obtain plants of this species since to re-establish it.

It seems an odd quirk of fate to lose a Cape Heath from drought in the summer after it had survived two winters out of doors unprotected except for a wind guard.

In 1969 I began repairing the damage by replacing some of the dead plants and adding *E. cinerea* ‘Velvet Night’, the hybrids ‘Arthur Johnson’ and ‘Dawn’, and *E. hibernica* ‘Glauc’, with ‘W. T. Rackliff’ and ‘Superba’ from my own cuttings.

My interest in Cape Heaths was further stirred this year by the gift of Baker and Oliver’s magnificent book on *Ericas in Southern Africa*. Like most other people, I had thought of *Ericas* as northern moorland plants and it came as a revelation that though Europe can boast 14 species, South Africa has over 600. Almost at once I began to wonder whether the mild climate of Coll might give me an advantage and make it possible to grow some at least of these out of doors. My success (or was it luck?) with *E. canaliculata*, and the fact that I had only lost *E. pageana*

from drought, encouraged me. I obtained seeds of *E. glandulosa* and *E. oatesii* from a well-known British seedsman and sowed them in a peat and sand mix in covered seed pans, moving the resulting plants, which had grown without protection in an uncovered frame, to Coll in the spring of 1971. At Christmas 1969 I saw some most attractive Cape Heaths in the florists' shops. One of these was *E. x 'Dusky Maid'*, a very handsome red and yellow cultivar; another *E. x 'Majestic'*, both derived from *E. hyemalis*, a Cape Heath. I took great care not to let these dry out and, after carefully hardening them off in the spring, planted them out. By the spring of 1971, after a year out of doors, 'Majestic' had grown quite well and 'Dusky Maid' was magnificent, the plants having grown enormously and the individual flowers seeming to be bigger and more brilliantly coloured; it really is a most spectacular plant. I can appreciate that in South Africa, with its incredible richness of species to call on, these hybrids are not of great interest, but in Britain they seem to me to have a number of advantages. Hybrid vigour may give them a little more hardiness than their parents; they are available, which most of the Cape Heaths are not, and they are a complete change from the familiar hardy heaths which we grow, many of the varieties which are, after all, very like one another.

In 1970 I obtained my first *Erica* seed from South Africa of a number of species. Again I sowed in peat and sand, in covered pans; the germination varied enormously. The really difficult part seems to be keeping the seedlings going through their first winter: with no glass I tried unsuccessfully to do this in the house. However, Brigadier Montgomery did much better with seed I passed to him and I now have nice plants of *E. baccans* to go to Coll next spring. I acquired more South African seed in 1971 and having, most kindly, been allowed part of a friend's greenhouse I have nice seedlings of a number of species coming on. It is too early to say how they will do and I will not tempt the gods by naming them.

A red-letter day for which I shall never cease to be grateful was when, during a marvellous trip to South Africa, I had the opportunity, under Oliver's expert guidance, of seeing a number of species in their native habitat.

Calluna Variations

J. E. Cross, Cutchoque, New York

The extreme variations to be found in the single species, *Calluna vulgaris*, are a never-ending source of amazement. A quick glance at the best known of the named cultivars provides ample evidence of the range of variation. In addition, close and regular observation reveals all sorts of peculiarities, some of which are noted here in the hope that they will be of as much interest to others as they are to me.

The flower of 'Bronze Beauty' (as best can be determined, a seedling selection of the late Mrs Esther Deutsch) and 'Hershey's Late' (which appears identical) is a real curiosity in terms of both time of bloom and nature of its development. On Long Island it wants to bloom in December when we reach our shortest days but, many years, a hard freeze will prevent most of the well-coloured buds from opening. A long cloudy period in the fall, possibly combined with early white frosts will sometimes bring this cultivar into bloom in October or November, particularly so when container grown.

The flower buds do not develop in the normal manner but slowly abort from the outer end of the small side branches of new and unhardened foliage. The first sign of flower development is a slight change in colour at the branch tip and even after this has accentuated to the point of a very distinct red purple with a silver cast, the shape remains that of the original side branches with unopened leaves. The indentations marking the separation of the overlapped leaves and the leaf ridges never disappear as the bloom appears but remain as an elongated form of calyx as wide and long as the corolla. By the time the bud is ready to open, the colouration of the bud extends well down through this 'calyx'.

'Minima Smith's Variety' (latter assumed, not confirmed by any real authority) presents an interesting study because of the variety of forms which one can obtain from cuttings taken from a single plant. The progeny range from tennis-ball mounds of yellowish-green surface interrupted only by small tufted peaks to much larger darker green collections of tight foliated plumes resembling a circle of a cat's tails

emanating out radially from the plant's centres. The more diminutive forms are almost identical to the plants one can obtain when rooting the small distortions (witch's brooms) which frequently appear on this plant. Incidentally, these witch's brooms do not survive our winters on the parent plant but the hardened-up rooted cuttings of the brooms do survive.

One of the most interesting of all these unusual characteristics of *Calluna* is a tendency for the tips of the main branches of 'Rigida' to orient toward the dark side. In the open field these tips end the summer's growth pointing north. A planting immediately to the east of a dense wood has all branch tips pointing west. Those branches which come out on the side receiving the most light bend almost a full 180 degrees. The result is a distinct wind-swept appearance. This tendency does not show up on an old-established planting at the Royal Botanic Garden of Edinburgh. Perhaps our summer light intensity is sufficiently greater to account for this difference.

The most striking of all peculiarities of *Calluna* is the fact that all seedlings of the many thousands which we have raised have, without exception, carried the flower of the seed parent. (Mr Letts told me this by letter but it took first-hand observation to believe it.) This raises a number of questions, but in the meantime it should be of great benefit to the breeder once he has mastered the difficult mechanics of fully controlled pollination. For our area it gives promise of combining better flowering forms with those few cultivars which, for as yet undiscernible reasons, have much greater ability to ward off winter damage. Interestingly, of the three cultivars which stand far out in this latter connection, two are seedlings originated in this area (not originally selected for hardiness, as such) and the third is our earliest blooming white—presumably 'Caerketton White'.

There are many other tendencies which show up in young seedlings. Four years of open pollinated seed from 'Mrs Ronald Gray' (surrounded by perhaps 80 other cultivars) produced a number of patterns. Each year's crop had between 5 and 10 per cent of plants closely resembling the seed parent in growth habit. With these and the remaining progeny of differing growth habits there has been a very

decided tendency to pick up the colour of the golden foliaged cultivars. (The majority of these suggest *C. v. 'Aurea'* as the source.) None so far have proven to be entirely golden—rather they tend to be varying mixtures of gold and green with the vast majority showing the gold only as the final growth hardens up in the fall. The most striking forms are those with the habit of 'Mrs Ronald Gray' with an overlay of top foliage containing every shade of yellow, orange and red including an occasional pink branch. The eventual product of controlled pollination will be something to behold!

In addition to the interesting combinations of foliage colours, there seems at least a possibility, as yet not explored at all here, of combinations of flowers on single plants. One plant of 'H. E. Beale' has for several years produced the double silver pink flowers on both the typical tall plumes and, in the centre of the plant, on short, closely clustered branches growing out in every direction. This section of the plant has none of the characteristics of what one might class as witch's broom. These flowers bloom on only slightly different time schedules.

We have one four-year plant of the aforementioned 'Bronze Beauty' and a five-year plant of 'H. E. Beale' which bear two sets of completely different flowers at distinctly different times. This habit has been stable since first observed as very small plants. Upon the initial planting into our garden they were examined to see if they might be a combination of a chance seedling entwined with the original rooted cutting but they appeared to be but one plant in each case (they would have to have been destroyed to have made absolutely certain of this). One suspects a combination of separate plants because the differing flowers are borne on separate branches. The foliage on these branches appears identical both to the eye and under magnification. It is still a likely possibility that chance seedlings are the explanation and that they have not appeared as such because of the chance similarity of foliage texture and colour. A modest attempt to investigate further will be made this winter by growing on rooted cuttings of the separate branches. If time brings no variation of flowers borne by these offspring, we will have no choice but to conclude that two separate plants are involved in each instance.

Harlow Car Heather Trials

G. P. Vickers, Sheffield

The heather trials at Harlow Car are beginning to become interesting. Five plants of each variety have been planted in rows in a field away from the main garden close to the nursery. Some 320 varieties have been planted, the two outside plants being left unpruned whilst the other three are being pruned. Regular records are being kept of height, girth, type of foliage, colour of flower and time of blooming, a time-consuming but interesting job.

The project was the brain child of Mr Ardron and the work has been done by the Harlow Car staff and the recording by Mr Russ and a team of volunteers most of whom live reasonably close by.

One of the problems associated with the trials has been keeping the rows free of weeds. It was decided at the beginning that chemical weed control would not be used because of the possibility of affecting the growth of the heather plants. The job of weeding by hand has been taken on by the recording team, and though by this autumn the trial ground was remarkably free of weeds, some additional help will be needed next year.

At a Northern group meeting held at Harlow Car this year an inspection by some of our more knowledgeable members revealed that a few of the plants were obviously wrongly labelled. As this is a vital piece of research work of immense value to the Heather Society and to heather growers in general, it was agreed that each plant should be systematically checked to ensure that it was correctly labelled. A number of experts have been drawn from various parts of the country, with myself as co-ordinator.

Three visits have been made during different flowering periods and though some mistakes have been found, the quality of the labelling has been found to be of a high standard. Some interesting side issues have arisen from these meetings:

1. We have been able to clear up a number of anomalies in naming which are not generally known.

2. We have brought to light others which will need closer checking over the next few years.
3. We have noted the obvious similarity between various cultivars which will be checked again and again.
4. We have noted that many plants are missing from our collection.
5. Looking at the plants and meeting together has prompted lively discussion as to how our results should finally be published.

As the Heather Registration Authority, we are expected in due course to publish and maintain a standard list of cultivars. At a recent Heather Society Committee meeting it was discussed as to what was meant by 'in cultivation', and it was agreed that if a name appeared in a grower's catalogue and was freely obtainable that cultivar was 'in cultivation'. It was also agreed that we should grow five plants of each 'in cultivation' at Harlow Car.

There is, however, amongst the recognition team a strong body of opinion that we should put ourselves in the position where we can publish a further list of cultivars recommended for heather gardens for their quality of flower, foliage and habit.

It is obvious when so many cultivars are seen side by side that there are many either identical or so near that they can be considered so for general use. It has proved very difficult for our team to differentiate between some of the cinereas, and the vagans are being left for another year to be sure.

Compiling a comprehensive list of plants in cultivation is a difficult task for one man. John Ardron has been working hard on this for some years, but it is obvious that our list is still not complete. With a membership of over 800 we ought to be able to compile this list collectively. Therefore, when members visit Heather Nurseries, **WILL THEY PLEASE OBTAIN UP-TO-DATE CATALOGUES** and send them to me. In this way, not only will we be kept informed of new cultivars as they are published, but also where we can buy them.

Volunteers to join the recording weeding-teams should give their names to Mr V. J. A. Russ.

Letter from America

Pamela Harper, Seaford, Virginia, U.S.A.

As those who have followed the journal of our wanderings will know, my beloved Gerrards Cross garden has been left, perforce, largely untended during the last four years. Lawns have been mown and a few summer weeks spent tidying up, otherwise the garden has had to depend on odd hours donated by friends and so has followed nature's rule . . . survival of the fittest. Which then, among the heathers, WERE the fittest?

It will surprise no-one to read that 'Springwood White' emerged as weed resister supreme, not only repelling intruders (only a couple of willow tree seedlings managed to get a footing) but advancing in a sweeping tide of white over some 2 feet of adjacent concrete path. Where close-knit before I left most *carnea* and *x darleyensis* groupings have fared well but newer plantings lost the battle to those two worst-of-all weeds, grass and sheep sorrel. Fickle 'Eileen Porter', constantly coaxed into survival in the past, actually seems to have thrived better on neglect. (Perhaps this is one better left unpruned?) Of a dozen clumps of 'Vivellii', newly planted, only two remain, the others having succumbed, I think, to summer drought. As one might expect, plants in shady places have suffered more from lack of pruning than those in full sun.

My six weeks in England were mostly spent house painting, a task made no pleasanter by the striking miners, my sympathy for their cause fast diminishing as I struggled to boil water for morning tea over the gas poker. I did manage to put in a few new plants of 'Springwood White' purchased from a local garden centre.

Back to the U.S.A., our home now in Virginia, just a few miles from Yorktown (where Cornwallis surrendered in 1781) and close to the early settlement of Jamestown. As my introduction to gardening here, Virginia had a trying winter. Summery weather continued right up to January and then, with plants still growing, the thermometer plummeted overnight to zero F. The small bed of tiny heathers, sole survivors of the collection brought from Maryland, suffered


little damage. It will be summers (hot, humid, fungus-ridden and enervating) which will take their toll here. . . . I just hope the heathers tolerate it better than the Harpers. We now have a sandy garden and I have planted a few companions for heathers which like this kind of thin poor soil. *Leiophyllum buxifolium intricatum* is a prostrate sand myrtle, around 6 inches high but several times as wide. *L. b. prostratum* is even lower. Both have pink buds and a froth of white flowers. *Chamaedaphne calyculata* is commonly known by the prettier name of Cassandra, but sometimes as Leatherleaf, an interesting, if modest, little shrub. Slender branches of small, thick leaves are hung with hundreds of white cylindrical bells, minute in size. Two new treasures are *Pieris japonica* 'Wada', a pink flowered form, and a red-budded *Kalmia*. I had to search high and low for the last but I see Hilliers list one called 'Clementine Churchill'. It is galling to search and search for a special shrub and then to turn to Hilliers and find it there. How lucky England is in its nurseries.

Interest in heathers continues to grow and a display put on at the Philadelphia Flower Show this year brought them to the attention of yet more people. There is a need for American-bred heathers, chosen for their ability to tolerate the sweltering summers and bitter winters which are the norm through much of eastern U.S.A. As interest grows I am sure more nurseries will work on these lines. A new heath on trial here is *Erica carnea* 'Mayfair White', a seedling which originated at Mayfair Nursery and described by them as 'a dwarf creeping plant with stout but short branches densely clothed in rather thick, rich green foliage and congested clusters of white flowers'. There is room for another white *carnea* so I shall watch this one with interest. If only the rabbits will leave it alone a further report will follow.

Re-reading Gertrude Jekyll's *Wall and Water Garden*, I found in the Heath Garden chapter a name new to me, *Erica mawei*, said to be Portuguese and to resemble *E. tetralix* but taller and deeper coloured. Could this be *E. ciliaris* 'Mawean', perhaps, does anyone know? (Mrs Harper now knows it is.—Ed.) This book discusses a number of plants suitable for inclusion in heather gardens.

Phytophthora seems to be a growing problem. One thing

is apparent, it flourishes best in hot, moist soil. With England reverting this year to its non-summer norm, the problem may lessen. In this part of U.S.A. it is a major problem and for the professional grower specialising in susceptible plants (heathers and azaleas, for instance) a bad attack can be disastrous. At a recent meeting of the local horticultural society the methods used by a local azalea nursery for combating *Phytophthora* were discussed. It has been their custom to fumigate nursery beds with methyl bromide, but apart from being a poison gas to be used only under tightly controlled conditions, it has the effect of completely destroying all organisms in the soil. As a result, if *Phytophthora* (or any other disease) is re-introduced (easily done if a single infected azalea is planted) it rampages unchecked and the end result can be worse than if no treatment had been attempted. Other means have therefore been sought. The most promising thing to date is a chemical marketed here as Truban (also as Coban and Terrazole). This has been found to clear *Phytophthora* for periods between four and 12 weeks, depending on the severity of the infection. A warning, however. Truban has a narrow safety range and at the recommended rate of 6 oz per 100 gallons has been known to kill some young rhododendrons and to have a stunting effect on heathers. Truban is the product of the Mallinckrodt Company of St Louis, Missouri 63160, and anyone interested should write to them for details. I understand this product is available in Europe.



Heathers in the Swiss Alps

Mme V. Colmegna, Ludiano, Switzerland

My great love for heathers began in my youth when mountaineering around the lake of Como where the mountains are of calcareous nature and where *Erica carnea* is found now and then. Once coming down one of these mountains in early spring with my father we were surprised by a very

loud buzzing while walking through a still leafless wood without understanding where it might come from. Having turned a corner we saw a magnificent picture of a great number of tall *Erica arborea* covered with flowers, with clouds of bees around them, filling the air with their joyous noise. Most of the plants were sturdy old giants which had survived, in their sheltered nook, the colder period which followed the previous warm one.

For some years I have planned to transform my garden into a heather garden, not only because I love them so much, but also in order to save work, being a very old woman by now. But as I also love other flowers very much the process is very slow and I have not yet a heather garden.

I live in an alpine valley between very high mountains in the southern part of Switzerland, the Canton Ticine, and the soil of this part of the country is rather acid. My east-facing garden is very small, but rather picturesque, having a huge rock, at the side of which, by building dry stone retaining walls several beds have been made. Here grow many heathers favoured by the warmth from the rock and the alpine climate with much snow in winter. But, of course, it is rather an incommodious garden with many stone steps, alas, not always firm as they ought to be, always tending to glide downward; in fact, it is not a garden for ladies with high heels or with bad knees!

Year after year I admire my two big *vagans*, 'Mrs Maxwell' and 'Alba', one near the other, the first one 2.50 m wide, and still growing, and about the same length, cascading down the slope turning where this stops above the retaining wall. It is almost touching the bush of 'Alba', which in its turn almost touches a *Rhododendron wilsonii*, which must be transplanted not to sacrifice the heather. I repent that I did not know at the time of planting about 'Lyonesse', but I have planted that excellent cultivar in another part of the garden.

I am very happy that, although the climate here is rather cold with much snow lying two months or more, *Erica lusitanica*, *arborea* and *australis* grow and prosper in choice places. From my *lusitanica* I get many seedlings, which are very nice to look at, like a miniature wood. I wish that *australis* and the white 'Mr Robert' would do the same, but

I have never seen one seedling, even after having kept the ground scrupulously clean under the old plants with sieved light soil on the surface. With cuttings of the same I have never been successful, nor with bending down young twigs for layering.

Erica mediterranea is really too brittle for this kind of climate and the big bushes look quite battered after so much snow and ice. It is almost unbelievable how quickly they can recover and look fresh and green by May-June. All I have to do is to cut out dry wood, straighten up the bushes and tie them to a strong support.

Erica terminalis grows quite out of proportion and is very picturesque in its wild way. It is very tall compared with the compact and rather low clumps I saw in poor and stony places along the South Italian coast between Amalfi and Salerno, where rain is not so abundant as here.

The *carneas* and *x darleyensis* are also covering enormous spaces and, especially the last one, tend to smother every weaker subject, but are, of course, forgiven owing to their all-year-round beauty.

With the *cinneas* I have not yet solved the problem. Two of them, 'Atrosanguinea' from England, and 'Splendens' from Germany (I believe a Dutch cultivar) grow and flower beautifully for nearly three months, while many others, especially all the purple ones, have died with me and all the other garden lovers for whom I had ordered them from an Irish nursery.

I have not yet many cultivars of *Calluna*, and I deeply regret not being able to grow *C.* 'Foxii Nana' to perfection. Either the little cushions open themselves instead of remaining compact, or they show bare and ugly patches; its cuttings are, alas, a very slow business. This may be the reason why they are rather expensive, at least in Switzerland.

Among the hybrids, I am especially fond of the lovely 'Dawn' and *williamsii*, one plant of which covers a steep slope and never seems to stop.

People in Switzerland do not yet especially care for heathers, generally speaking, and not many are to be seen, except the *carneas*, which are often used in cemeteries. One reason is, maybe, that north of the Alps the soil is heavy and of a calcareous nature; heathers have to be treated like

rhododendrons and azaleas, that is, in special beds, which means a lot of work.

I am doing my best to make them better known and many people go away from my garden with the firm purpose to cultivate some of the best in their gardens too.

(Note: Mme Colmegna's garden was shown in the 1972 Year Book.)



Book Reviews

THE STORY OF A GARDEN, by PAMELA HARPER.
Pelham Books Ltd. Price £2.75.

It was a loss to British horticulture when Pamela Harper followed her husband to America where his profession had taken him. But the grudge I had against him for doing this has been partly alleviated after reading this book, for the author has given us so much of her knowledge that will be of such great use, not only to those about to make a garden but also to owners of established gardens, for, from cover to cover, the book is packed with practical hints, intermingled with garden stories and myths. Rarely have I had so much enjoyment from reading a gardening book, and I can most readily commend it.

Making a garden on an acre of land with an unkind waterlogged soil, waist high in reeds and blackberry bushes, on a plot that has been the dumping ground for all the tree stumps of the neighbourhood thus blocking the stream that runs through the plot: surely this would be enough to daunt many a prospective buyer of a building site, not least young people who have never gardened before and with little time or inclination to do so. Funds did not allow the hiring of paid labour 'but what began from necessity became a deeply satisfying hobby', to quote the author.

Very wisely a plan was drawn to scale of the plot showing what the planners wished their garden to become so that it could be made section by section; every operation is recorded most thoroughly as it was later carried out. When

planting began a card index was kept in the same methodical way, of all trees, shrubs, plants and bulbs used, which I have never done in my garden but have often wished I had. Planting when it began was as thorough, and I commend a favourite adage of the author's: 'Never put a shilling plant into a penny hole'.

Preparation of the ground eventually took a long time, for as and when an area was cleared, levelled and the soil sufficiently drained and improved, another section of lawn was made, more planting done, walls built and paths laid. All so different from what is so often done when a whole area has to be covered as quickly as possible which, all too often, means lawns and paths to be repaired, or relaid, trees and shrubs replaced.

Mrs Harper was not afraid of experimenting and knowing her I guess she enjoyed it. At the end of the book is an index listing between six and seven hundred varieties of trees, shrubs, plants and bulbs that she grew, another help to the many to whom the names in a plant catalogue mean little.

There was room for fruit trees and bushes, and vegetables, for a wild garden, a water garden, a winter garden, woodland and a greenhouse. What more can anyone want?

When Mrs Harper is able to return to England for one of her infrequent visits, one of her first calls is to the garden that once was a swampy tangle. How she must have hated to leave it.

P.S.P.

ECOLOGY OF HEATHLANDS, by DR C. H. GIMINGHAM.

Chapman & Hall. Price £4.75.

'*Calluna vulgaris* is a species of great ecological interest . . . and remarkable versatility.' Thus writes the author in the preface to this 280-page book which we are glad the publishers have sent. A knowledge of what helps to make heathers happy must help us in growing them well. And here are to be found facts, e.g. on germination, seedling development, growth and life span—'normally limited to around 30 years', and 'most vigorous up to ten years'. There are discussions on how acid the soil can be—'its range extends from about 3.2 to just over 7.0 pH, but is most

vigorous between 3.5 and 6.5'. But 'the possibility remains that the calcifuge behaviour of *Calluna* may be determined largely by the requirements of seed germination, seedling establishment and vegetative growth'. On the subject of the fungus which infects the roots, 'much doubt has been cast upon the whole interpretation of the mycorrhizal association as an obligate one'. The considerable genetic diversity of *Calluna* is noted, and that numerous 'dwarf' varieties have been taken into cultivation—there is no other mention of cultivars, although the apparent genetic fixation of prostrate cliff forms is referred to. Most of the text deals with *Calluna*, with occasional references to *Erica cinerea* and *E. Tetralix* (in effect, no others are mentioned), and some of their differences brought out, for example, seedling germination is very much poorer in *E. cinerea*, apparently not exceeding 40 per cent, whereas *Calluna* may reach 95 per cent in six months. *Calluna* is 'a species which profoundly modifies its own habitat', its litter having a marked acidifying effect; and there is evidence that its roots give off some substance which is inimical to the establishment of certain species of tree.

But having said all this, it must be stated that the book is true to its title, and that those of us who wish to know our heathers better should certainly read it.

D.McC.

CONIFERS FOR YOUR GARDEN, by ADRIAN BLOOM.

Obtainable from Bressingham Gardens, Diss, Norfolk.

Price £2.30 plus 20p postage and packing.

Even before one starts to read this book the beautiful coloured pictures on the covers showing gardens planted with a combination of heathers and conifers make it obvious that Adrian Bloom as a member of the Heather Society seeks to capture the interest of people in these delightful plants. Inside, too, the colourful pictures of various gardens and conifers kept me engrossed for a very long time.

Being careful to have all my plants labelled, I was pleased that from the pictures and descriptions I was at last able to identify three conifers in my heather garden which had been much admired by visitors. I was also interested to see how a

small *Podocarpus nivalis* recently given me would look in later years.

Descriptions give ultimate height, spread and shape; there are hints on siting, planting, pruning, garden design and, in fact, it is difficult to think of a question not answered. The picture inside the back cover could well make members wish they could redesign their gardens, and for those extending or making a new heather garden, remembering conifers shed no messy leaves, this can give them new ideas.

An ideal present, of absorbing interest to all heather gardeners, this is a book that will be referred to time and time again.

B.G.L.

Heather Expert finds Norfolk ideal:

B. G. London At Home

(Reprinted by kind permission of The Eastern Daily Press, 19th September, 1972.)

On retiring to Norfolk where he was born, Mr Bernard London went about the purchase of a home in a rather unusual way.

It was not so much the location of his bungalow that appealed to him, but the nature of the soil!

The sandy soil at his home at 6 Roedich Drive, Taverham, where he has lived for the past three years after moving from High Wycombe, is ideal for his hobby. For 12 years now Mr London has had a keen interest in growing heather and there are about 115 varieties in his garden.

Mr London, a retired Post Office engineer, has been a member of the Heather Society since 1964. He has won a number of prizes at shows, but his greatest success to date was at the Royal Horticultural Society's Heather Competition in London (5th-6th September, 1972) when he won two firsts, three seconds, a third and two fourths.

Since he has been growing heather at Taverham, several neighbours have shown interest and he has increased the Society's membership by about eight. In Norfolk as a whole there are 33 members (latest count.—Sec.). He is surprised that more people in Norfolk do not grow heather in their garden, as Norfolk is natural heather country. Buxton Heath has made a contribution to the heather grower's world by providing a white *Calluna* called 'Buxton Snow-drift', a large bed of which is grown at Harlow Car, near Harrogate.

Norfolk members of the Heather Society held their first meeting at Mr London's home on 17th September. They hope to encourage local horticultural societies to include a class for heathers in their shows, and to interest the public authorities in providing heather gardens as seen in other parts of the country.

Pruning Heathers

By Frank Hamer, Sunnymount Nurseries, and
G. P. Vickers, Sheffield

Illustrations by Susan Hamer

A lot has been written about heathers being excellent ground-cover plants needing no attention and ideal for the lazy gardener, but for truly beautiful heather gardens with maximum bloom some work is necessary: heather plants do need pruning.

Some gardeners consider that heather plants have a limited life and need replacing after, say, five to seven years; with timely pruning this period can be greatly extended. We know a 'H. E. Beale' which is 25 years old and is covered with bloom, bushy and healthy. A 'Serlei Aurea' only seven years old in a Sheffield garden looked lank, woody and worn out until hard pruning last spring saved it from the spade and now it is a picture of foliage and bloom. The secret is correct pruning.

Some garden centres sell heather plants in 2½-inch pots

with 12 inches of lank growth already beginning to take on that haggard look, whilst plants from good specialist nurseries are bright and bushy and evenly shaped. The secret is correct pruning.

It is possible to grow *Erica carneas* spreading tightly over a bed with little flower, or *Calluna* 'Alportii' with just pin heads of bloom. It is also possible to have uneven mounds of carneas a blaze of colour in the snow, or 'Alportii' brilliant crimson. The secret is correct pruning.

New growth will not grow on callunas where old bloom has faded so an unpruned plant will consist of woody growth with alternate tufts of foliage and bare patches, an unpleasant sight. The remedy is good pruning.

Correct pruning must start at the rooted cutting stage. It is usual to overwinter rooted cuttings in a frame or cold greenhouse, but when potting or planting out in the spring the tips are nipped off to promote side shoots. As some of the more vigorous varieties such as 'Springwood White' or *mediterranea* 'Superba' will grow as much as 4 inches without side shoots, these are shortened to 2 inches or less so that side shoots are formed low down to form the basis of a neat bushy plant. For *Calluna*, *cinerea* and *vagans*, side shoots are required lower so the cuttings are nipped off to an even lower level.

During the first few months of growth the plants are examined and if bushy growth is not produced the longer side shoots are nipped shorter resulting in further side shoots and so a symmetrical bushy plant results. All this work is done by the conscientious nurseryman.

The next attention is required after flowering and the blooms have faded. Different plants need different treatment. For plants with long flowering spikes such as *Calluna* 'Elsie Purnell' or 'Mairs Variety' it is vital that the whole flowering spike is cut down to the body of the plant. It will produce more shoots from the lower portions of the flowered growth and become the long spikes for next season's display. Failure to prune in this way will produce woody growth and less bloom. If a plant has been allowed to become lank and woody it can be rejuvenated by cutting back hard as low as possible but care should be taken to *leave some foliage* from which new growth will be produced.

Erica vagans cultivars will sometimes throw out a longer shoot in the centre which breaks into side shoots like an umbrella over the main plant. This should be cut off to the body of the plant and the flowers trimmed off after they have faded. *Vagans* will grow particularly bushy when trimmed but they are sufficiently accommodating to be trimmed severely if necessary.

Erica carnea and dwarf callunas which are compact growers and produce a much shorter length of bloom only need their dead flowers to be removed and many of them only need trimming in alternate years. Cinereas with long flowering spikes should be trimmed annually.

Tree heaths such as *arborea* 'Alpina', x *Veitchii*, *australis* and *lusitanica* will benefit from a hard prune of up to half the previous year's growth every year for the first few years to encourage the formation of strong bushy plants then allowing them to take up their natural habit of long sprays of bloom.

There are mixed opinions as to when to prune, varying from when the blooms have faded to when the new growth starts. One could argue about this but the important thing is that it is done. The chart details a pruning plan which will form a basis on which to work. Individuals may wish to vary slightly to suit their own requirements and may wish to experiment with delaying bloom a little on certain cultivars by delaying pruning.

Use secateurs, shears or pruning saw, but let us aid nature by maintaining natural shape, not practise topiary.

HEATHER PRUNING CHART

<i>Variety</i>	<i>Pruning Time</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Calluna	February-March	Prune long flowering spikes back to plant every year. Trim off all flower heads
Carnea	April-May	Trim flower heads with shears every other year. Trim the Springwoods hard to stop centre going bare
Ciliaris	April-May	Trim every year
Cinerea	February-March	Trim every year particularly long flowering spikes

<i>Variety</i>	<i>Pruning Time</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Daboecia	February-March	Trim off dead flowers and seed pods, to make bushy growth
Tetralix	April-May	Trim every year
Tree Heaths	After flowering depending on flowering season	Trim half of previous years growth for first four years to encourage bushy growth. Trim off broken branches. Stake for support
Mediterranea Winter Hybrids	June	Trim every year. Do not be afraid of limiting growth
Summer Hybrids	March	Trim hard every other year
Vagans	March	Leave flower heads on for russet colours during winter. Trim every year; do not be afraid of limiting growth

When pruning hard make sure some foliage is left on the plant to form new shoots.

Seeds and Sophistry

Mrs Betty Kershaw, Fleetwood, Lancs.

It is a bold spirit indeed which dares, in a gardening article, to disagree with Shakespeare. But when he says in *Hamlet*, 'O fie, 'tis an unweeded garden that grows to seed; things rank and gross in Nature possess it merely', he is making a sweeping generalisation which does not apply to the heather garden. In fact, he who energetically wields the hoe amongst his *Ericas* and *Callunas*, not only breaks some of their fine, hairlike surface roots, but also destroys many potential treasures.

It seems to take heathers at least three years to adapt themselves to a new environment. During this probationary period some may die, according to geographical location and the climatic conditions they have to suffer. But the



CALLUNA 'CASTLE OF MEY'

Mr David McClintock showing Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother a *Calluna* found near Mey in August 1972.

This photograph was taken during a visit by members of the Botanical Society, of which Mr McClintock is the President. Mrs Mary Briggs, the Honorary General Secretary, looks on.

A 2" Carnea
cutting without
side shoots



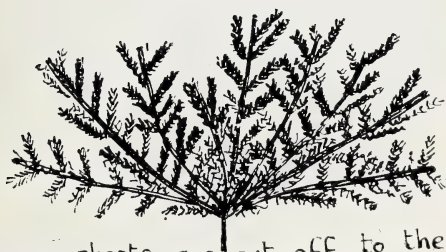
cutting is cut
at 1" - side shoots
are formed



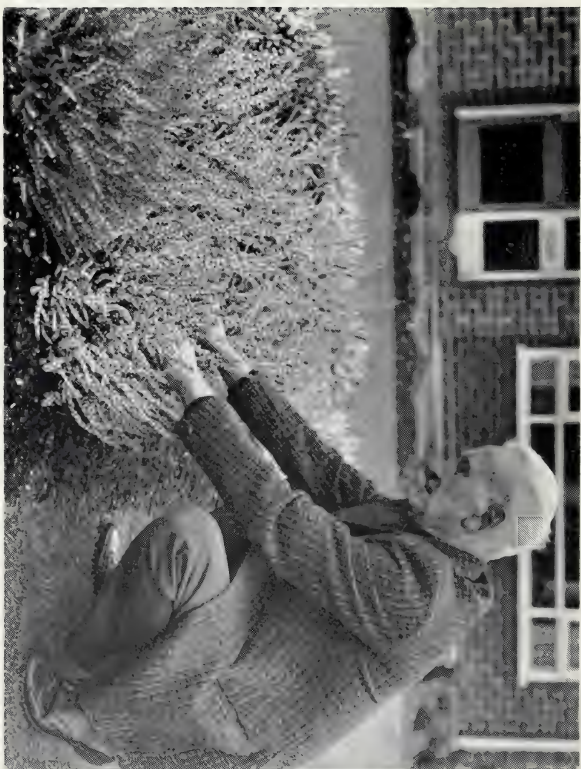
side shoots are cut again to make a bushy
plant.



Calluna Elsie Purnell in Full bloom.



Flowering shoots are cut off to the body of the plant



Mr B. G. London at home.

Darwinian theory applies in the garden, too; the fittest, in any particular environment, will survive, and in a few years subtle changes will have taken place in the composition of the soil surrounding the plants. And peat top-dressings accelerate the development of the benevolent conditions necessary for the full splendour of the plants and a healthy life-cycle.

It is at this point that one may begin to look for the 'potential treasures' mentioned above. and it is, unfortunately, at this point, all too often, that the enthusiastic gardener wields his destructive hoe on the heather bed. Summer varieties, particularly vagans, Daboecias and Callunas, set their seed very easily, and in spring this seed germinates in the shelter of the mother-plant, protected by the spread of her skirts. Any necessary weeding should be done by hand and a careful watch kept on likely plants for seed germination. By mid-summer some of these tiny, jewel-like heads of germination may be removed. It is better to choose a day when the soil is moist and little blocks of seedlings may be carved out with a penknife. They may then be carefully separated and planted out in a seedbox, spaced at about 1 inch apart, in the usual peat/sand/loam compost. Usually they make rapid progress, often overtaking cuttings, and do not seem to suffer the 'decline and fall' which some cuttings experience on being planted out.

Of course, this is a lucky-bag technique; one cannot propagate specific cultivars in this way. But if space and time permit, it is most rewarding to rear some seedlings until their characteristics become evident, at which time one may discard those which do not appeal. And if a certain plant turns out to be different in foliage colour, habit or flower, it becomes almost like a member of the family—it is christened, nurtured, endlessly discussed.

All this has happened in our heather garden. The seedling collecting began in earnest when a pot of Robert Chapman cuttings failed to root. All through the winter they looked, at least, alive, but gentle probing now and then revealed naked stems with no signs of roots. But one or two had isolated seed pods. That year it was April before tidying-up operations began in the cold greenhouse. And it was then that we noticed a carpet of minute seedlings, much smaller than pin-

heads on the surface of the Robert Chapman pot. As they grew the wide range of foliage colour became apparent. In due course about 50 were transplanted and grown on. As they reached maturity we could recognise that some of them were identical with the ordinary moorland *Calluna vulgaris*; some had foliage of unusual shades of green, or brownish-green, and carried flowers ranging from light mauvish-pink to an Alportii deep purple. About 13 showed foliage in shades of greenish gold to deep copper. Our main interest was centred on this group. Of these some were identical with Robert Chapman, two or three were Chapman colour, but prostrate, a few were slightly lighter or darker in foliage than Chapman, and three of the batch, now three years old, have kept their early promise. 'Red Dragon' is a strong, upright plant, very floriferous, with darker-than-type flowers and foliage, more intense than Chapman, which turns a fiery red in winter. 'Petroushka' (which actually means 'parsley') has bright green foliage and bi-colour flowers of light and dark mauve. 'Mulberry' has flowers of a rich purple and foliage distinctly lighter than Chapman. These are all grown near to plants of Robert Chapman so that we are able to compare colours under similar conditions, season by season.

This year we have collected some seedlings from under the skirts of 'Red Dragon'. About a dozen are growing well and we look forward to further experiments in the heather garden next year where 'things rank and gross in Nature' by no means possess it merely.



Heaths at the Cape

C. I. MacLeod

Circumstances took me unexpectedly back to South Africa in mid-November, 1972, my objectives being first to visit my family in Natal and Zululand, and secondly to see heaths in their natural environment in the Cape. This, I felt, would justify my leaving my duties as your Secretary for three

weeks. And for this latter part, I knew I could rely on Mr E. G. H. Oliver, co-author of the fine book, *Ericas in Southern Africa*. I had met him several times during the two years he spent at Kew working in the Cape heath glasshouse.

He suggested that if I took the early plane from Durban to Cape Town he and his friend, Mr Idris Jones, would meet me at the airport and 'drive me into the mountains to find Cape heaths'.

Our drive took us round the base of the Hottentots Holland mountains, that grand range that circles the south-west corner of the Peninsula, past Strand, Gordon's Bay, Pringle Bay to Betty's Bay, where, in the Harold Porter Botanical Garden, we picnicked within sight of a yellow-wood tree, a conifer from which much old Cape and Natal furniture was made. After lunch we continued along the coast road for some time, flanked on one side by the mountains, on the other by the sea. Sad, indeed, to be told that here, where the ericas grow so abundantly, housing development would come, it being private property. I recall in particular, masses of *E. patersonia*, though not in flower. This species I knew, but there were others, with clusters of minute tubular flowers, flattened at the tip to make four-petalled stars, which fascinated me.

Leaving the coast road, we then climbed steeply to Sir Lowry's Pass before going on in the late afternoon to Middelman's Honigklip Nurseries where I wanted to buy some heaths. Confronted by such a choice and with the weight restriction of air travel in mind, I yet chose, among others, a lovely specimen of *E. blenna* with bulbous orange, yellow and green flowers, like Japanese lanterns. I also bought an *E. cerinthoides*, described for us in the 1964 *Year Book* by Mr Crewe Brown, who found them in the Lebombo Mountains, in the Eastern Transvaal.

After a brief stop near Stellenbosch, at the home of Ted and Idris, situated in a vineyard, a typical Cape Dutch house with white gables, a wide 'stoep' (verandah) and even a 'van der Stel' oak tree immediately in front (though Ted pointed more proudly at his *lilac* bush), we drove to a 'braaivleis' (barbecue) in the lovely Jonkershoek Valley for the end of the year celebrations of the South African Association of Botanists. Here in this research station of the

Provincial Department of Nature Conservation I saw specimens of the larger heaths. But here as at Kirstenbosch the next morning, I was struck by the fact that *no pruning* is done, a matter of some comfort perhaps to those of us who neglect this duty with our temperate heaths. In both these gardens, without doubt the species most in evidence was *E. bauera*, 5 to 6 feet high with great clusters of flowers ranging from purest white to all shades of pink. The green flowers of *E. sessiliflora* would delight the flower-arranger, while the size of the yellow *E. pinea* shrub is like a fair-sized rhododendron.

My final visit was to an enchanting garden, that of Dr Louis Vogelpoel at Rondebosch. Here I saw an amazing number of treasures, many of them found by him.

So far I have not mentioned what may well be the reason why we in England and possibly others in the wetter parts of the African continent fail in our efforts to grow Cape heaths. Their natural habitat is drought-ridden in summer, in a rubble-like medium or in a pure whitish sand, ground down through the ages from the sandstone sides of the mountains. They want no manure, no fertiliser. Yet, with the cussedness of plants, a self-sown heath in Dr Vogelpoel's rose garden, defying the law of 'no fertiliser, no manure', was growing exuberantly, crowding out the roses and in its season, we were told, a mass of bloom.

A point of some interest: Dr Vogelpoel is experimenting with growing Cape heaths in pots: he feels there is merit in it. That, of course, is what we have to do in Britain, but the difference is that he must supply light shade by way of a high framework supporting a dark, gauze-like nylon. He uses plastic pots to lessen evaporation; I for one prefer clay, to aid drainage. He had found, as we have, that limestone with pockets of soil above is acceptable to heaths: break it up into fragments, and you kill the lot. No use in pots.

So ended these memorable two days, not the least delight being my introduction to a liver-coloured bitch belonging to Idris Jones but quite obviously given her extravagant name of '*Linnaea australis*' by Ted Oliver in memory of the lecture he gave us at the Linnean Society in London in 1969.

Heathers from Seed . . .

An Interesting Experiment

A. S. Turner, Birmingham

I collect heather seed as soon as it is ripe by shaking a sprig of dead flowers into a polythene bag, examining the result with a magnifying glass to make sure there is seed amongst the dust and rubbish. If none can be seen I leave it for two weeks and then repeat the process until I have all the seed I want. The time for collecting it depends partly on the variety and partly on the weather. I have collected ripe seed from *Calluna* 'Caerketton White' in August and *Cal.* 'Robert Chapman' in November.

Before Christmas I fill a seed box with a mixture of two parts peat to one part sand and sprinkle the seed on the surface of the moistened compost. The box is then slipped into a polythene bag, leaving the end open, purely to protect the seed from rain and wind as the boxes are placed in the open and left outside through the winter. If the weather in January is mild I place them in the freezer compartment of the refrigerator for a few days to ensure they really freeze.

In early March I take them into the cold greenhouse and watch for germination, care being taken that they do not dry out, as the seedlings, being on the surface, could easily wither before they are able to root into the soil.

After germination I examine the seedlings with a magnifying glass when it can be seen that the leaves vary in size and colour which usually means the smaller the leaves the smaller the plant; green or gold foliage remains constant.

The stems differ, too. My observations lead me to believe it is possible to foretell the colour of the eventual flower from the colour of the stem: a white or colourless stem means a white flower, a red stem a reddish flower, with corresponding shades in between. This enables one to select plants of one's choosing at a very early stage. I have noticed minute insects amongst the seeds and wonder if they act as pollinating agents? As I believe *Calluna* to be self-fertile this could make the crossing of any two varieties difficult. There is great variation in seedlings when they are grown on but I

have found few that are better than existing cultivars. But I find great pleasure in growing my own stock from which only the best are selected.

I commenced collecting seed from my heathers six or seven years ago and from the few varieties I had at the time I noticed 'Caerketton White' flowered at least six weeks before any other *Calluna*; by raising seedlings from it I hoped to get an even earlier variety. To my knowledge there were no other plants of 'Caerketton White' in the vicinity and I inferred that it was self-fertile; this was borne out by the 100 seedlings I planted, every one of which had white flowers and an almost identical habit to the parent.


In succeeding years seed was taken from these seedlings and, to my mind, enough evidence obtained to prove that by careful selection it would be possible to breed true from seed. A pink form flowered but was rejected, together with most of the others; pollination happened so easily that the bottom flowers of a spike were setting seed before the top buds were open. From a garden point of view this spoilt the appearance of the plant.

I collected seed from other varieties, all carefully labelled and kept separately. When they germinated it was noticeable that those from 'Robert Chapman' varied greatly in the colour of seed leaves and stems. I chose 'Janice Chapman' as the trial plant for a stem colour test as all the seed leaves were similar and white the basic flower colour. When they flowered my earlier surmise was confirmed that plants with white or colourless stems had white flowers, and the deeper the colour of the stems the darker were the flowers. Later I began to concentrate on coloured foliage varieties, hoping to find one with double flowers, but so far have not succeeded. I have taken seed from single flowers of *Calluna* 'Alba Plena' on plants growing near coloured foliage plants hoping that something special would result from this union, so far without success.

Amongst a batch of seedlings there will be some with three seed leaves which later revert to normal. Once I had a seedling with four leaves (a potential double?) but after potting and taking great care of it a minute caterpillar killed it.

The more one finds out, the more avenues open up to possible results. One question I should like to have answered

is: 'By careful selection could the red pigment in a purple-flowered plant be eliminated, even after many generations, to produce a blue-flowered heather?'



Erica Cinerea 'Redriggs'

W. L. Lead, Gedling, Notts.

When we moved to Nottingham some 16 years ago we brought with us from our previous garden at Redriggs, Grange over Sands, a number of plants including a collection of autumn flowering gentians which had been planted in boxes in the spring in preparation for the move. When these gentians were being planted in their new situation we discovered a number of seedlings, one of which turned out to be an *Erica cinerea* of colour somewhat similar to 'C. D. Eason' but with a longer flowering spike and an extended flowering period.

Over the next ten years or so this plant grew strongly and was greatly admired by all visitors to the garden and we had many requests for cuttings. As the plant had obviously originated at Redriggs and was a bright red we thought 'Redriggs' would be an appropriate name. A number of plants were raised from cuttings and sent to various nurserymen and heather gardens. Some of these plants were kept on in our own garden but none of these ever gave the same display of colour or length of flowering period as the original seedling.

During recent years even the original plant became less attractive despite attempts at rejuvenation by pruning and there was a progressive reduction in the length of the flower spike and flowering period. Finally the plant was grubbed out during a replanting scheme. What we had hoped would be a most useful addition to the heather garden turned out to be another heather 'that never was'.

This episode illustrates the difficulty in picking winners from the large number of seedlings which turn up in most

heather gardens, and emphasises the necessity of asking oneself critically, 'Is your heather really necessary?'

How many of the new heathers being introduced at present will ultimately become as well known as some of the cultivars that have stood the test of time? The task of growing every commercially available heather in order to find out which are really worth a place in one's own garden is beyond the scope of most heather enthusiasts. All power to the elbow of those who are trying to carry out this enormous task on our behalf at Harlow Car.



Some Conifers for the Heather Garden

Evelyn Bezzant, Bearsden, Glasgow

A carefully chosen selection of slow-growing and dwarf conifers, with their very wide range of size, colour, texture and habit can give a certain air of maturity and a well-furnished look to the heather garden. The various greens, blues, silvers and golds, and their different foliages are second only to heaths and heathers in providing year-round colour and interest.

All they ask is a well-cultivated, free-draining soil, with a good helping of peat and grit worked in when planting. A large enough hole should be provided to take the roots comfortably spread out. If the new plant is over about 18 inches in height, a stake may be necessary for a season or so to prevent wind rock.

Possible combinations of shape and colour are endless and exciting. Imagine the brilliant silver blue of *Picea pungens* 'Prostrata' next to a group of *Erica carnea* 'Carnea', or the vivid winter purple of *Cryptomeria japonica* 'Elegans' beside a thicket of *Calluna vulgaris* 'Beoley Gold'. A little careful planning with regard to rates of growth and eventual spread of plants to be used, and you can hardly go wrong.

One of the most beautiful and popular of the slow-

growing conifers is *Thuja occidentalis* 'Rheingold', gold in summer, turning to brilliant copper in winter. Broadly pyramidal in shape, it will eventually reach a height of 9 to 12 feet. *T. plicata* 'Rogersii' is another excellent variety, neat and compact in habit, dark green inner foliage with golden bronze tips. It is globular in shape and attains a height of about three feet.

Chaemaecyparis pisifera 'Boulevard' is upright and conical, with beautiful silvery blue foliage. It succeeds best in moist, acid soil and some shade. *C. p.* 'Plumosa Aurea Nana', a compact little tree, has feathery golden summer foliage, turning to a delicate lemon shade in winter.

Of the junipers, a good prostrate form is *Juniperus sabina* 'Tamariscifolia' with densely overlapping branches of blue-grey foliage. It slowly builds up to a height of about 18 inches, with a spread of up to 12 feet. Careful pruning will keep the plant to the desired size. This variety looks well carpeting a bank, or placed to emphasise the curve in a path.

Pinus sylvestris 'Beauvronensis' is the best dwarf pine. It forms a small compact dome-shaped little bush. The distinctive needle-like foliage provides an excellent contrast in the heather garden.

One of the most popular of the spruces, *Picea glauca* 'Albertiana Conica', is a slow-growing, perfectly cone-shaped bush. Of a good green colour and dense habit, it will never outgrow its welcome. The new spring growth is a striking fresh apple-green.

Some of the very smallest and slowest growing pygmy varieties of conifers can be used to great effect in trough gardens and raised beds, along with the really dwarf heathers like *Calluna vulgaris* 'Minima' and *C. v.* 'Pygmaea'. *Abies balsamea* 'Hudsonia' makes a very compact shrublet, with deep green, glossy leaves, densely arranged on the branches. *Picea abies* 'Gregoryana' forms a tight bun-shaped little bush with narrow grey-green leaves and tiny yellow-green buds. Another little gem for a miniature landscape is *P. mariana* 'Nana', which makes a dwarf globular bush of dense grey-blue, the blue being very noticeable in summer. *Juniperus communis* 'Compressa' is one of the indispensables. It is an extremely slow-growing, symmetrical column of bluish-green, resembling a tiny 'Irish Juniper'.

Gazetteer of Heather Names— Part 1

D. McClintock

Here is a list of cultivars and varietal names used for our hardy heathers. No doubt I have missed some, ignorant of the fact that their name was a place name, e.g. I do not know the derivation of 'Carlton'. Intentionally or otherwise, there is at least a pun in the name 'Darkness', but thus it must be written and not 'Dark Ness'. The former is as much used as the latter and is the earlier in print. Nevertheless, the plant did originate in the Ness Gardens in the Wirral. Some of the names in this list are synonyms.

I know, or have reasons to assume, that the plants listed below were found, or originated, in or near the places they are called after, unless I say otherwise.

Alcester (*Calluna*). Town in Warwickshire near Sparkes' Nurseries where it was raised, c. 1966.

alpina (*arborea*). Of lofty mountains, not necessarily the Alps, 1892.

americana (*Andromeda*). From North America, 1848-80.

aragonensis (*australis*). Aragon in N.W. Spain. Variety of Willkomm, 1852.

arctica (*Calluna*). Presumably of the Arctic: a form of Briquet and Litardière, 1938.

Arne (*ciliaris*). Village in S. Dorset, by 1969.

Arran Gold (*Calluna*). Island in the Firth of Clyde, by 1971.

Ashgarth Amber (*Calluna*). H. Hale's house at Haslemere, 1971.

Ashgarth Amethyst (*Calluna*). H. Hale's house at Haslemere, 1967.

asturea (*arborea*). Mountains of N. Spain: var. of Regel, c. 1850.

azorica (*Daboecia*). Island in N. Atlantic, 1932.

azorica (*Erica*). Island in N. Atlantic, 1844.

Baby Wicklow (*Calluna*). Witches Broom on Co. Wicklow, 1969.

Bartinney (*Tetralix*). Downs near Land's End, by 1972.

Battle of Arnheim (*Calluna*). Town of battle in 1944 in Central Holland, 1971.

Bavelaw (*Calluna*). Village near Balerno, Midlothian, 1937.

Bearsden (*Daboecia*). Suburb of Glasgow where W. Buchanan lived, 1968.

Beechwood Crimson (*Calluna*). Sparkes' Nurseries at Beoley, Worcs., H.C. 1968.

Ben Rhadda (*Calluna*). By 1948.

Beoley Elegance (*Calluna*). Village near Sparkes' Nurseries, Worcs., by 1965.

Beoley Gold (*Calluna*). Village near Sparkes' Nurseries, Worcs., by 1963.

- Birch Glow (*vagans*). W. E. Th. Ingwersen's Birch Farm Nursery, near East Grinstead, Sussex, seedling by 1960.
- Black Forest (*Calluna*). Area in S.W. Germany, 1967.
- Bognie (*Calluna*). Farm four miles S.E. of Forbes, near Monaughty Forest, by 1965.
- Boskoop (*Calluna*). Seedling in H. v. d. Laar's garden there, 1967.
- Bradford (*Calluna*). The county in Pennsylvania where Kolage's Nursery at Windham Township is. Seedling, 1968.
- Braeriach (*Calluna*). Presumably Cairngorm mountain, by 1971.
- Bransdale White (*Calluna*). Moor near Helmsley, Yorks., by 1966.
- Braviel (*Calluna*). By 1972.
- Broadstone (*cinerea*). Town in Dorset, 1927-32.
- Bunsall (*Calluna*). Village near Wickwar, Glos., by 1972.
- Buxton Snowdrift (*Calluna*). Buxton Heath, Norfolk, by 1968.
- Caerketton White (*Calluna*). Hill in the Pentlands, S.E. of Colinton, c. 1957.
- Cairn Valley (*cinerea*). Near Moniaive, Dumfriesshire, by 1970.
- Caldy Island (*cinerea*). Island off Pembrokeshire, by 1956.
- Calf-of-Man (*Calluna*). Island off the Isle of Man, 1969.
- California (*Daboecia*). State of U.S.A., pre-1959.
- Californian Midge (*Calluna*). State of U.S.A., by 1963.
- Camla (*ciliaris*). F. W. Millard's garden at E. Grinstead, by 1934.
- Camla, Camlaensis (*Calluna*). F. W. Millard's garden at E. Grinstead, by 1935.
- canadensis (*Andromeda*). Country of N. America, 1864.
- Carsie White (*cinerea*). Near Blairgowrie, c. 1960.
- Caryduff (x *darleyensis*). J. W. Porter's village in Co. Down, pre-1955.
- Castle of Mey (*Calluna*). Queen Mother's residence in N. Caithness, 1972.
- Cevennes, Cevennensis (*cinerea*). Mountains in Central France, in 1930's.
- Co. Antrim (*Calluna*). County in Ulster, N. Ireland, 1953.
- Colligan Bridge (*cinerea*). In Mourne Mountains, Co. Down, 1936.
- Co. Limerick (*Calluna*). County in Munster, S.W. Ireland—error for Co. Wicklow, 1944.
- Colstoun (*vagans*).
- Colwall (x *darleyensis*). Ballard's Nursery near Malvern, 1965.
- Connemara (x *Praegeri*). District in Connaught, W. Ireland, 1969.
- Corfe Castle (*ciliaris*). Near Studland in Dorset, early 1960's.
- Cornish Cream (*vagans*). County in S.W. England, pre-1966.
- Co. Wicklow (*Calluna*). County in Leinster, E. Ireland, where found by Miss Winifred Wynne of Avoca in 1920's.
- Craig Rossie (*Calluna*). Hill in Ochils, behind Auchterarder, Fife, by 1968.
- Cramond (*Calluna*). Village east of Edinburgh, by 1970.
- Crastock Heath Variety (*Calluna* 'Rosalind'). Mrs Wye's Nursery near Guildford. A.M., 1961.
- Cripples Ease (*cinerea*). Village near Penzance, pre-1964.
- Cunneryensis (*Calluna*). W. Goodwin's Nursery at Tansley, Derbyshire, pre-1964.

- Darley Dale (*cinerea*). Village by J. Smith's Nursery in Derbyshire. Plant said to have come from Ireland, pre-1964.
- Darley Dale (*x darleyensis*). Village by J. Smith's Nursery in Derbyshire.
- Darleyensis (*Calluna*). Village by J. Smith's Nursery in Derbyshire. Plant said to have originated in Scotland, pre-1964.
- Darleyensis (*Tetralix*). Village by J. Smith's Nursery in Derbyshire, by 1939.
- Dens Cleugh (*cinerea*) (Scotland). 1937.
- Donard Pink (*Daboecia*). Slieve Donard Nursery, Newcastle, Co. Down, by 1934.
- Donegal (*Mackaiana*). County in Ulster, Ireland, 1969.
- Drum-Ra (*Calluna*). Area of forest near J. Drake's Nursery near Aviemore, 1953.
- Durfordii (*Calluna*). Wood north of Petersfield, Hants, by 1954.
- (To be continued)

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R.H.S. Awards, given in London, to plants submitted at Fortnightly Shows:

- E. lusitanica*: Award of Merit, February 22nd, 1972 (National Trust, Sheffield Park).
- E. erigena* ('mediterranea'): Award of Merit, April 18th, 1972, to 'Brightness', 'Superba' and 'W. T. Rackliff' (Crown Estate Commissioners, Windsor Great Park).
- E. ciliaris* ('David McClintock'): Award of Merit, September 5th, 1972 (Proudleys Nursery).

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The whole concern rests on the natural resources of its own lands. So perhaps heather isn't out of place after all.

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LIST OF MEMBERS

December, 1972

*Indicates members willing to show their gardens by appointment.

†Nurserymen.

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 PATRICK, Mr and Mrs L. B., Dounie, Tayvallich by Lochgilphead, Argyll.
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 BAILEY, Miss S. M., 27 Ladywood Road, Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield.
 BALL, Professor G. V., Heatherways, 14 Manor Road, Streetly, Sutton Coldfield.
 BALL, W. R., 97 Lambley Lane, Burton Joyce, Nottingham.

- BARDEL, Mrs M., Parlours Bank, 2 Hergest Road, Kington, Herefordshire.
 BARTON, Mr and Mrs P. T. de Witt, 17 Northgate, Bridgnorth, Salop.
 BEHARRELL, Mrs M. V., Suncrest, Duck Lane, Welford-on-Avon, Stratford-on-Avon.
 BELTON, C. G., 34 Bourne Avenue, Halesowen, Worcs.
 BENNETT, D. J., 4 Erica Close, Marlpool Gardens, Kidderminster, Worcs.
 †BENSON, Mrs J. L., Ridgway Wood, Edgton, Craven Arms, Salop.
 BESWICK, G. I., The Cottage, Hilderstone Road, Meir Heath, Stoke-on-Trent.
 BRAZIER, K. R., 43 Weir Road, Hemingford Grey, Huntingdon, PE18 9EH.
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 BROOKS, Mr and Mrs N. D., 153 Sneyd Lane, Essington, Wolverhampton, WV11 2DX.
 BROWN, Mr and Mrs K. W., The Elms Farm, Costock, nr Loughborough, Leics.
 CARR-SAUNDERS, Mrs J. A., 139 Old Station Road, Hampton-in-Arden, Warks.
 CARTER, F. G., 10 Russet Close, Henwick Park, Worcester, WR2 6EL.
 CHALLONER, T. A., New Leys, High Ash Farm, Meriden, nr Coventry.
 CLARK, P. W., The Haven, 36 Bridgnorth Road, Stourton, nr Stourbridge, Worcs.
 COLLICK, K., 10 Risdale Close, Leamington Spa.
 COOKES, G. J., Little Froome, 2 Drayton Lane, Fenny Drayton, nr Nuneaton.
 COOPER, B. H., 7 Corinne Close, Rednall, Birmingham, B45 8EJ.
 COOPER, K. V., Abbeywood House, Newstead Abbey Park, Linby, Notts., NG15 8GD.
 COUGHLIN, Mrs R., 17 Alvechurch Highway, Lydiate Ash, Bromsgrove, Worcs.
 COULSON, F., Cedar Heights, 20 Victoria Road, Wooshouse Eaves, Leics.
 CROW, Mrs A. F., 63 Longwood Road, Aldridge, Staffs.
 DAESDONK, Mrs J. van, 13 Station Road, Barton-under-Needwood, Burton-on-Trent.
 DARBY, M. C., 100 Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton, Staffs.
 DAVIES, A. E., 760 Old Lode Lane, Solihull, Warks.
 DAVIES, J. Gwyn, Midland Wallboards Ltd, 120 Beakes Road, Smethwick, Warley, Staffs.
 DEARLING, Mr and Mrs T., 1 Swinburne Close, Balderton, Newark-on-Trent, Notts.
 DES FORGES, A. N., Bog Hall, Kinver, Stourbridge, Worcs., DY7 6JD.
 DUDLEY, Mr and Mrs A., The Spinney, Little Hay, Lichfield, Staffs.
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 †EATON, Mrs W. D., Lea Nurseries, Emstrey, Shrewsbury, Salop.
 ELWIN, R. C., Two-Ways, 12 The Lawns, Whatton-in-the-Vale, Notts, NG13 9EZ.
 †EVERETT, Mrs M., Hill Cottage, Wynniatts Way, Abberley, Worcs.
 FEARN, Mr and Mrs F. A., 82 Nottingham Road, Long Eaton, Nottingham, NG10 2AU.
 FINCH, A. R., 25 Windrush Grove, Selly Oak, Birmingham, B29 7SU.
 GENT, Miss K. C. M., Kings Cairn, 39 Borrowcop Lane, Lichfield, Staffs.
 GIBBON, Mr and Mrs J. W., 59 Loxley Road, Glenfield, Leicester, LE3 8PH.
 HANSON, F. D., Crossways, 43 Wellington Road, Bromsgrove, Worcs.
 HARTLESS, Mr and Mrs W. B., 31 Brookmans Avenue, Quinton, Birmingham 32.
 HAYES, R. N., 55 Storer Road, Loughborough, Leics.
 HEADLEY, W. H., 43 Craighill Road, Knighton, Leicester.
 HOPE, Mr and Mrs D. W., 33 Ribble Drive, Barrow-on-Soar, Loughborough, LE12 8LJ.
 HORSLEY, N., 12 Perlethorpe Avenue, Mansfield, Notts.
 HORTON, Mr and Mrs C., 221 Field Road, Bloxwich, Walsall, Staffs.
 HUTCHERSON, H. G., Butts Croft House, Tamworth Road, Corley, Coventry, CV7 8B.
 JARRATT, J. F., 19 Ashtree Road, Tividale, Warley, Worcs.
 JOHN, Lady, Ty Draw, Efail Rhyd, Llanrhaedry-m, Oswestry, Salop.
 JONES, Mr and Mrs E. T., 16 Manor Road, Hanbury Park, Worcs., WR2 4PD.
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 KENDALL, P. J., 45 Halesowen Road, Halesowen, Worcs.
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 LOVATT, Mrs H. M., Roman Way, Roman Road, Little Aston Park, nr Sutton Coldfield.
 LUNN, M. H., 46 Redland Grove, Carlton, Notts., NG4 3EU.
 McDOWELL, Dr L. A., 34 Michael Drive, Birmingham, B15 2EL.
 MANN, J. M., 7 Niven Close, Allesley, Coventry, CV5 9BJ.
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 MARTIN, J. E., Elder Tree Lane, Ashley, nr Market Drayton, Salop.
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- OAKMAN, C. W., 24 Yelverton Avenue, Evington, Leicester, LE5 6XR.
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 PERKS, H. S., 15 Leonard Road, Wollaston, Stourbridge, Worcs.
 POWERS, A., 256 Thornborough Road, Coalville, Leics., LE6 4EL.
 PRINGLE, W. H., 56 Littleheath Lane, Lickey Lane, Bromsgrove, Worcs.
 QUAYLE, Mr and Mrs S. K., Loen, Bewdley, Worcs.
 RADLEY, A. O., 7 Ashley Close, Norton, Stourbridge, Worcs.
 †ROBERTS, Mrs E. S., Glenhurst, 121 Hadley Park Road, Leegomery, Wellington, Salop.
 ROGERS, Dr K. B., 38 Woodbourne, Augustus Road, Birmingham, B15 3PH.
 ROPE, Mr and Mrs D. H. E., Clouds, 38 Vernon Crescent, Ravenshead, Nottingham, NG15 9BL.
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 ROUND, Mrs D. M., Kenelm, How Caple, Hereford.
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Group 6. Eastern and North of Thames.

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 BUCKMASTER, A., 3 Rothschild Road, Linslade, Leighton Buzzard, Beds.
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- CRANE, Mrs H. H., Highmead, Cheney Street, Eastcote, Pinner, Middx.
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 DODGSON, Mrs F. W., Kaikoura, 127 Heath Park Road, Gidea Park, Essex.
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 DUNCAN, A. McK., Windy Ridge, 32 Parsons Heath, Colchester, Essex.
 DUREY, R. E. C., 17 Chestnut Avenue, Hampton, Middx., TW12 3AX.
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 ERITH, Miss B. M., Frog Meadow, Dedham, Colchester, CO7.
 FINCH, Mr and Mrs J. E., The Barn, Wargrave Road, Twyford, Berks., RG10 9PQ.
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 FLACK, D. H., April Rise, Rectory Lane, East Carleton, Norwich.
 FLICK, L. P., 109 Cranborne Waye, Hayes, Middx.
 FOX, Mr and Mrs R. J., Candella, Stoke Road, Poringland, Norwich, NOR 42W.
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 GAMBLE, Mrs E. F., Rosario, West Runton, Cromer, Norfolk.
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 GILLARD-EASTOP, T., Willowdene, The Street, Bunwell, Norwich, NOR 01X.
 GILMOUR, J., Director, The University Botanic Garden, Cambridge.
 GOLLE, A. E., 10 Monksmead, Borehamwood, Herts.
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 †HAGE, C. M. van, van Hage's Nurseries, Broxbourne, Herts.
 HALL, Mrs W., Flat 13, Hillmead, Boundary Road, Taplow, Bucks.
 HAWES, Miss M. M., 14 Rivermead, Yarmouth Road, Stalham, Norwich, NOR 34Z.
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 HYDE, G. W., 69 St Nicholson Walk, Brandon, Suffolk.
 JOHNSTONE, Dr R. D., Cramond Lodge, 130 Westley Road, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.
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 LACEY, Mrs E., 58 The Meadow, Cuffley, Herts.
 LANG, Mr and Mrs W. Craib, 17 Mount Grace Road, Potters Bar, Herts.
 LAWRENCE, C. R., Southernwood, Hargham Road, Attleborough, Norfolk.
 †LE GRICE, E. B. (Roses) Ltd, Yarmouth Road, North Walsham, Norfolk.
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 LEWIS, Mr and Mrs P. N., 24 Theydon Park Road, Theydon Bois, Essex.
 LEWIS, R. J., 88 Gallants Farm Road, East Barnet, Herts.
 LOCK, A. J., Gomms Wood, Knotty Green, Beaconsfield, Bucks.
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 McLEAN, A. G., Calver Lodge, Frithwood Avenue, Northwood, Middx.
 MARSHALL, J. A., 15 Roedich Drive, Taverham, Norwich, NOR 53X.
 MERRIN, R. R., 10 Brownfield Way, Blackmore End, Wheathampstead, Herts.
 MILLS, J. R. F., 26 Theobalds Road, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex.
 MILLS, R. E. H., 58 Brettingham Avenue, Cringleford, Norwich, NOR 96D.
 MILNER, Mrs C. A., 8 Westmoreland Avenue, Hornchurch, Essex, RM11 2EE.
 MILSTED, Revd I. S., The Manse, 1 Millwood Road, Hounslow, Middx.
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 MUNNS, H., 13 Southfield Road, Hoddesdon, Herts.
 NEWBY, L. G., 44 Beavers Lane, Hounslow, Middx., TW4 6EL.
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 PEDRICK, G. F., 9 Cedar Drive, Hatch End, Middx.
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 REEVES, T. A., Dryden, Joiners Lane, Chalfont St Peters, Bucks.

RETHAM, Mrs D. Homestead, Skeyton, Norwich, NOR 54Y.
 ROBINSON, Mr and Mrs R. H. M., Hyde Hall, Rettendon, Chelmsford, Essex.
 ROGERS, Mrs E. A., 26 Haspalls Road, Swaffham, Norfolk.
 ROSS-LEWIN, Major F. H. W., The White House, St Olaves, Great Yarmouth.
 SANDROCK, F. E., Meadowsweet, Halstead Road, Kirby Le Soken, Frinton-on-Sea, Essex.
 SMALL, J. R., Little Acre, Hanney Road, Southmoor, Kingston Bagpuize, Berks.
 SMITH, K. G., 2 Chestnut Path, Canewdon, Essex.
 SPAULL, R. W. T., 33 Shelford Park Avenue, Great Shelford, Cambridge, CB2 5LU.
 STERNDAL-LE-BENNETT, Cdr R. D., Long Reach, Chelmondiston, Ipswich, IP9 1D7.
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 STOW, Mr and Mrs A. J., Josarno, 15 Highlands, Flackwell Heath, Bucks.
 STRICKLAND, J., Wings, 5 Larchwood, Little Kingshill, Great Missenden, Bucks.
 THORPE, Mr and Mrs B. R., Seaway, Bridge Road, Gorleston-on-Sea, Great Yarmouth.
 THURLING, F. H., Llanelly, Mundesley Road, North Walsham, Norfolk.
 TUSTING, Miss J. M., Somerton, Prospect Road, Oulton Broad, Lowestoft, Suffolk.
 TYRRELL, A. N., 6 Providence Road, Yiewsley, Middx.
 VIGRASS, B. W., 41 Newmans Way, Hadley Wood, Barnet, Herts.
 WALKER, Mrs E. R., Little Wood, Ashwells Way, Chalfont St Giles, Bucks.
 WALLACE, Air Vice-Marshal J. B., 3 Wakehams Hill, Pinner, Middx., HA5 3AO.
 WALMSLEY, P. G., Tryddyn, Horning Road, Hoveton, Norwich, NOR O6Z.
 WARNES, Mr and Mrs N. D., Drayton House, The Warren, Cromer, Norfolk.
 WISEMAN, H. R., The Spinney, Highfield Drive, Broxbourne, Herts.
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 WOODHOUSE, Mr and Mrs H. W., Pennhurst, Bernards Close, Great Missenden, Bucks.
 WOODS, R. C., Calafanra, 56 Main Road, Danbury, Essex, CM3 4NG.

Group 7. London and the South East.

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 AUSTIN, W. G. L., Trewithiel, Russells Crescent, Horley, Surrey.
 BALCHIN, Mr and Mrs G. H., 36 Hartsgrove, Chiddingfold, Godalming, Surrey.
 BEAMAN, Mrs C. G., 43 Hall Lane, London, N.W.4.
 BELL, Mrs J. N., Little Barden, Sheepstreet Lane, Etchingham, Sussex.
 BENN, Lady, High Field, Pastens Road, Limpsfield, Oxted, Surrey.
 BERRY, Mr and Mrs S. J., 29 Woodside Road, Bickley, Bromley, Kent, BR1 2ES.
 BESSANT, P., Felbrigg, Glenesk Road, Eltham, S.E.9.
 BILLINGTON, W. H., Hazelglen, Russells Crescent, Horley, Surrey.
 BOLT, H. W., Kyrenia Cottage, 36 Sheephose, Farnham, Surrey.
 BOND, J. D., Wick Nursery, Wick Road, Englefield Green, Egham, Surrey.
 BONNEY, Mr and Mrs S. J., 12 Old Oak Avenue, Chipstead, Coulsdon, Surrey, CR3 3PG.
 *BOWERMAN, Mr and Mrs A. H., Champs Hill, Coldwaltham, Pulborough, Sussex.
 BOXALL, Mr and Mrs L. Gilridge, Sandy Lane, Kingswood, Surrey.
 BRADE, W. H., 99 Warren Road, Reigate, Surrey.
 BRAY, B., 5 Cardinal Avenue, Morden, Surrey.
 BRICKELL, C. D., The Lilacs, Wisley, Ripley, Surrey.
 BROWN, Mrs C. R., Penn Cottage, 1 Downs Road, Seaford, Sussex.
 BUCKINGHAM, Mr and Mrs A. G., Coach House, Wall Hill Road, Ashurstwood, East Grinstead, RH19 3TQ.
 BUCKLEY, Major R. M., Woodlands, Greenhill Road, Otford, Kent.
 BUDD, P. J., 14 Collington Rise, Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex.
 BULLOCK, Mrs D., Garway, Albert Road, Horley, Surrey.
 BURKE, Dr S. A., Orchard Cottage, Manor House Lane, Effingham, Leatherhead, Surrey.
 *CAMERON, Mr and Mrs R., Great Comp, Borough Green, Sevenoaks, Kent.
 CAMPLING, L. H., 8 Hatchgate Close, Cuckfield, Sussex, RH17 5DT.
 CANNON, Mrs J., 2 Dunally Park, Shepperton-on-Thames, Surrey.
 CHARRINGTON, Sir John: *see Group 6 (after May, 1973).*
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 CLAYTON, O. J., 8 Chittenden Cottages, Wisley, Ripley, Woking, Surrey.
 COOK, Mr and Mrs E. O., Orchardlea, Radford Road, Tinsley Green, Surrey.
 COOPER, Mrs A. I., Lockhursthatch, Hurtwood Lane, Shere, Surrey.

- COPAS, B. A., 13 Pinewood Close, Shirley, Croydon, CR0 5EX.
 DANIELLS, Miss R. W., Wacousta, The Bishops Avenue, London, N.2.
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 †DAVIS, P. G., Timber Tops, Marley Common, Haslemere, Surrey.
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 †DOLLEY, F. H. Sanderson, Dolleys Hill Nurseries, Normandy, Guildford.
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 DUGUID, Mrs J., Flat 6, Holbrook Park, Horsham, Sussex.
 DENSTON, Mrs R., 1 Heathfield Lodge, Carron Lane, Midhurst, Sussex.
 EDWARDS, N. J., Westfield, Holbrook Lane, Chislehurst, Kent.
 ELLIS, Mr and Mrs F. A., 22 Brockenhurst Avenue, Worcester Park, Surrey.
 ELLIS, Mr and Mrs H. C., Owl House, Poundgate, Uckfield, Sussex.
 EVANS, Mr and Mrs A., 8 Dartmouth Park Avenue, N.W.5.
 EVE, Mrs J. H. F., Woodlands, Coast Hill Lane, Westcott, Dorking, Surrey.
 FALCONER, B. J., Merristwood, 409 Woodham Lane, Woodham, Weybridge, Surrey.
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 FORTY, Mrs J., Wyke Cottage, Clandon Road, West Clandon, nr Guildford, Surrey.
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 GENT, Lady, Little Paddock, Fairmile Lane, Cobham, Surrey.
 GILES, Mrs J. W., 43 North Park, Eltham, London, S.E.9.
 GODBOLT, Mrs E., Altadena, Southview Road, Crowborough, Sussex.
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THE HEATHER SOCIETY

BANKER'S ORDER

To..... Bank Branch

Please pay to Barclays Bank, Horley (20-42-21) for the credit of The Heather Society on receipt of this order £..... and thereafter until further notice at ANNUAL intervals commencing on the 31st day of March, 19 .., the sum of £1.05 single or £1.50 joint.

Signed..... Date.....

NAME (Capitals)

ADDRESS

.....

This order will ensure automatic payment on due date saving trouble to both the member and the Society.

Please forward to The Heather Society on completion.

The Treasurer: Mr E. R. Turner, Filma Dene, Burstow, Surrey, RH6 9TJ.

THE HEATHER SOCIETY

DEED OF COVENANT

I (full name in capitals).....

of (address)

COVENANT with The Heather Society that for seven years from the present date or during my lifetime (whichever shall be the shorter) I will pay to the Society on the thirty-first day of March in every year such sum as, after deduction of income tax at the standard rate for the time being in force, amounts to

£..... (please insert the actual amount you are willing to pay each year).

SIGNED and SEALED by me this..... day of..... 197 ..

SIGNATURE..... in the presence of

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS.....

ADDRESS

Immediately after completing this document please return it to The Heather Society Treasurer.

